

Richmond Dispatch.

FRIDAY.....JULY 9, 1880.

(For the Illustrated.)

The Old Crop - To "Alpha."

Messrs. Editors: Your correspondent "Alpha," in your issue of the 7th, speculates on the causes which prevent the farmers in the region of Danville from making good crop, but does not, in my opinion, touch the true cause. The reason of the failure is that farmers will persist in sowing oats in the spring instead of the fall. Winter oats seeded last of August, or in September, and on good land, even to 15th October, among the standing corn, will be almost sure to make good crops, if the land is in tolerable plough. They are rarely winter-killed, particularly if sowed by the 16th of September.

Springs oats are scarcely worth seeding; they are so uncertain, while winter oats are very certain. If oats cannot be sowed in the fall, then let the winter variety be sowed last of February or first of March.

T. P. POLLARD, Commissioner Agriculture.

P. S. We think the yield in grain of fall-seeded oats over those sowed in the spring will, as a general rule, be double, and often more, as the spring-sowed sometimes fail entirely, as in many instances they did this year.

T. P. POLLARD, Commissioner Agriculture.

Resources of the South.

SOURCE OF CONDITION OF TRADE AND PRODUCTION SINCE THE WAR—THE BLACK MEN AS LABORERS AND LAND OWNERS.

Mr. James Caird, the eminent English agricultural authority, sends to the London Times the following letter, which he says is from "an American friend well known to the late Mr. Colden": "You are quite right in the published extracts of your views in regard to the incredible resources of this country developed of late west of the Mississippi. I consider this country is at the moment in a state of dangerous prosperity. Its vitality and strength exceed all previous estimates, and now we have spring opening most favorably for planting and sowing the coming crops. There is every indication of another very large harvest, which means very cheap and abundant food, quite beyond any possibility of consumption in this country. In the mean time, mineral resources are being developed, new lines of railway extended in every direction, and with an abundance of money, speculation is rampant. There is no bridge strong enough to hold the excited American people under such circumstances, and if the downfall of the States should occur it will be from over-prosperity. Emigration is pouring in in vast numbers, and wealth is increasing; but the Southern States are not helped by emigration. They have to learn to make the best of their black labor; which, by the way, is exceedingly good and cheap, and more docile and tractable than the Irishman. The negro's fast taking his place much more rapidly than any sane person could have anticipated. I was astonished while in South Carolina to learn the fact that in one county there were over 2,000 land-holders negroes, whose places range from three to ten bales of cotton. My wife informed me that at one of the public schools which she visited she saw nearly 500 black children being educated by black teachers, and that right in the hot-bed of heresy, South Carolina, I predict that there will be exceptional times in the South, and that rich planters—ten times richer than ever existed before the war—will raise their heads within a few years. Credit, the bank of the southern planter, has disappeared. Now they buy and sell for cash. I met one gentleman who had sold his crop of cotton for \$240,000, and I saw another well-known man in Mississippi who had raised nearly 10,000 bales of cotton—£100,000. The property of this gentleman is estimated at \$5,000,000. There were no such fortunes in the South in older times. When we think of the scattered territory east of the Mississippi—eight States, which have a white population of about 4,000,000—and compare their condition and resources with the white population of Illinois, which has nearly 5,000,000 souls, the evidence is conclusive that the property of the 4,000,000 in the South far exceeds in value the property held by any 4,000,000 in the North. Of course, we must shut out the centres, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia; they are bridges for the rest of the country, and the accumulated wealth comes to those cities. But when I speak of 4,000,000 I speak of people living in the interior, and I assert that the 4,000,000 white people of the South are to-day richer than any 4,000,000 in the North, and their land would advance just as rapidly if they permitted the black men to become proprietors. The effect upon the value of the farm-lands where the owners have had the sense to sell off small lots to negroes on the edges of their farms is most striking. The small black proprietors buy from five to ten acres, and close together. The poor man can afford to pay more money for land than the rich man in the quantities in which he purchases it, and is gratified to see a great desire on the part of the owners of large tracts of land to sell portions to their black friends. The South is also becoming a large purchaser of artificial manure. One establishment in Chicago sold 30,000 tons of this, chiefly to southern markets, whereby the upland cotton in Northern Georgia and Alabama is stimulated in the early part of the season, a limited application of the plant being advanced ahead of the frost, which in former years was a constant bugbear as the cotton-packing season approached. I think we shall see a progressive increase in the cotton crop, and a greater prosperity than the South has ever attained.

TEMPERATURE OF THE SEA.—(From the London Daily News.)—The lovers of sea-bathing will learn with much interest the result of a series of observations on the temperature of the sea, which were completed some time since by the Scotch Meteorological Society. The observations were made every day during a period of four years and nine months, and the result was to confirm the impression that the changes of atmospheric temperature influence the sea but slowly. The variations in the warmth of the sea-water occur within a range of one third less than that of the air, and the mean temperature of the sea is found to be warmer than that of the atmosphere in seven months out of the twelve. The summer warmth penetrates the sea very gradually, and is more gradually given off, January is the coldest month, but the sea water is coldest in March. July is the hottest month, but the sea water attains its maximum warmth toward the end of August. From that time the sea becomes warmer than the air, and cools so much more slowly than the weather that in November the average warmth of the water is 62°, and in December 77°, higher than that of the air. The temperature is reached at the end of March, and after the next five months the air is warmer than the water. These figures, which result from careful observations made at Peterhead, justify the custom of extending sea-bathing late into the autumn. Sea-bathing should, in fact, be late, and may safely be late. It is more dangerous in the warm days of early summer than in the chilly days even of the late autumn. The sea is as warm at the end of October as it is in the second week of June, and the period between these two dates is the healthy bathing season for those who are strong enough to begin early and leave off late.

PLANTATION PROVERBS.—One-eyed mule can't be handled on the blind side. Moon may shine, but a lighted knot's mighty handy. Do pig rats run off wid de year? er-got gits little mo' dan de cob. Licker talks mighty loud when he git loose from de jug. Beepin' in de fence-corner don't fetch Krishn—a de ketchen. "Twee de boyz, but a lighted knot's mighty handy. Do pig rats run off wid de year? er-got gits little mo' dan de cob. Licker talks mighty loud when he git loose from de jug. Beepin' in de fence-corner don't fetch Krishn—a de ketchen. "Twee de boyz,

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